

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
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R 091400Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6225
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 173
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CU, MZ
SUBJECT: MOZAMBICAN STUDENTS TO STUDY IN CUBA

REF: MAPUTO 1069 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: TWELVE HUNDRED MOZAMBICAN STUDENTS, 13-17 YEARS OLD, ARE LEAVING FOR CUBA, WHERE THEY WILL ATTEND TWO SPECIAL SCHOOLS RUN UNDER SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS BY THE MOZAMBIQUE EDUCATION MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTICIAS SEPTEMBER 3 REPORTED THAT 1200 MOZAMBICAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 10 OF THEIR TEACHERS WOULD BE LEAVING FOR CUBA. THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES THERE ON SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

3. THE STUDENTS ARE PRESENTLY IN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES,
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APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO AMERICAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.
(MOZAMBIQUE SCHOOLS HAVE NINE GRADES: PRIMARY, FIRST TO FOURTH, AND SECONDARY, FIFTH TO NINTH.) THEY ARE SAID TO COME FROM ALL AREAS OF MOZAMBIQUE, AND SPECIFICALLY FROM FAMILIES OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS. THE TEACHERS ARE FROM THE DISCIPLINES OF POLITICAL EDUCATION, HISTORY, PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE AND GEOGRAPHY.

4. THE 1200 STUDENTS WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN TWO SCHOOLS OF 600 EACH. THE SCHOOLS WILL BE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND FLY THE MOZAMBICAN AND FRELIMO FLAGS. THE ORGANIZATION AND CURRICULUM OF THE SCHOOLS IS SAID TO BE THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE SAME LEVELS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

5. GRACA MACHEL, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, SAID THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF EMBASSIES, THAT ONE COUNTRY HAS PERMITTED ANOTHER TO REGULARLY FLY ITS FLAG ON THE HOST COUNTRY'S TERRITORY. NOTICIAS REPORTED THAT USE OF THE SCHOOL FACILITIES IS BEING DONATED BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AS A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

6. MRS. MACHEL AND MATIAS KAPESSE, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ADDRESSED MEETINGS OF THE 1200 STUDENTS AND OF THEIR PARENTS AND RELATIVES IN MAPUTO SEPTEMBER 1. MRS. MACHEL TOLD THE STUDENTS THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CUBANS. BUT, SHE WARNED, "NEVER FORGET THAT WE ARE MOZAMBICANS WITH OUR OWN PERSONALITY, OUR OWN PRINCIPLES AND OUR OWN POLITICS." SHE TOLD THE STUDENTS TO AVOID ISOLATING THEMSELVES IN CUBA. THEY SHOULD MIX THERE WITH CUBANS, ANGOLANS AND OTHER NATIONALITIES, BUT MAINTAIN THEIR MOZAMBICAN PERSONALITY. THEN THEY CAN COME BACK TO HELP BUILD MOZAMBIQUE, SHE SAID.
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7. THE MEETING OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND RELATIVES OF THE CHILDREN WAS CALLED, SAID KAPESSE, TO DISPEL RUMORS WHICH WERE ALREADY SPREADING ABOUT THE CHILDREN, AND THE REASONS FOR THE TRIP. HE ASSURED THE GROUP THAT THE TRIP IS A STEP TOWARD BUILDING THE COUNTRY. NOTICIAS QUOTED SEVERAL PARENTS WHO SUPPORTED THE VENTURE.

8. COMMENT. THE STUDENTS, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, ARE TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY ON A SOVIET PASSENGER BOAT, ALREADY BERTHED IN MAPUTO HARBOR. THE DENUNCIATION OF RUMORS ABOUT THE TRIP MAY REFLECT A CONCERN OF SOME OF THE PARENTS THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE BEING SENT OFF AT A RELATIVELY YOUNG AGE, PERHAPS FOR MILITARY TRAINING. ALL OF THE STUDENTS PICTURED IN THE NEWSPAPER WERE BOYS.

9. PRESUMABLY THE TEN MOZAMBICAN TEACHERS WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY CUBAN OR OTHER FOREIGN INSTRUCTORS, BUT THE AIM SEEMS TO BE SEGREGATION OF THE MOZAMBICANS IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS WITHIN CUBA. HOWEVER, THIS PROJECT IS A SIGN OF THE CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE FRELEMO GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE

ALL VESTIGES OF THE COLONIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.
CARSON

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